

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing molten irons, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

providing a mixture containing iron by drying and mixing iron ores and additives;

drying the iron ores or the additives by using a branched exhaust gas which is exhausted from at least one fluidized bed while conveying the mixtures to the fluidized bed by using the branched exhaust gas which is directed to the fluidized bed;

passing the mixture containing iron through one or more successively-connected fluidized beds to convert the mixture into a ~~reducing~~ reduced material that is reduced and calcined;

forming a coal packed bed, ~~which is~~ as a heat source in which the ~~reducing~~ reduced material has been melted;

charging the ~~reducing~~ reduced material to the coal packed bed and supplying oxygen to the coal packed fluidized bed to manufacture molten irons; and

supplying reducing gas exhausted from the coal packed bed to the fluidized bed;

~~wherein in the step of providing a mixture containing iron, exhaust gas exhausted from the fluidized bed is branched to dry at least one of the iron ores and the additives.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein in ~~the step of~~ providing a mixture containing iron, at least one of the iron ores and the additives is dried immediately prior to supply to the fluidized bed.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~the step of~~ providing a mixture containing iron comprises ~~the step of:~~

discharging stored iron ores and additives;

drying the iron ores and additives using separate heating air while vibrating the iron ores and additives;

storing the dried iron ores and additives; and

supplying the stored iron ores and additives to the fluidized bed.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein in ~~the step of~~ providing a mixture containing iron, an amount of branched exhaust gas is 20~40% of an amount of exhaust gas exhausted from the fluidized bed.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein in ~~the step of~~ providing a mixture containing iron, at least one of the iron ores and the additives is conveyed and simultaneously dried.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein in ~~the step of~~ providing a mixture containing iron, a flow rate of the exhaust gas is 20~30m/s in the case where the iron ores are conveyed.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein in ~~the step of~~ providing a mixture containing iron, a flow rate of the exhaust gas is 10~20m/s in the case where additives are conveyed.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein in ~~the step of~~ providing a mixture containing iron, the iron ores are fine ores having a grain size of 8mm or less.

9. -15. (Canceled)